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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

26161 7590 03/17/2003

FISH & RICHARDSON PC
225 FRANKLIN ST
BOSTON, MA 02110

EXAMINER	
AKERS, GEOFFREY R	
ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
3624	705-026000

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/353,896	07/16/1999	ANTHONY D. ESTES	10246/004001	4260

TITLE OF INVENTION: DIRECT RESPONSE E-MAIL

#25

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$0	\$1300	06/17/2003

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

☐ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Box ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Fax (703)746-4000**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

26161 7590 03/17/2003

**FISH & RICHARDSON PC
225 FRANKLIN ST
BOSTON, MA 02110**

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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TITLE OF INVENTION: DIRECT RESPONSE E-MAIL

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$0	\$1300	06/17/2003

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
AKERS, GEOFFREY R	3624	705-026000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) ☐ individual ☐ corporation or other private group entity ☐ government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)

(Date)

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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26161	7590	03/17/2003	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC 225 FRANKLIN ST BOSTON, MA 02110 UNITED STATES			AKERS, GEOFFREY R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The patent term extension is 0 days. Any patent to issue from the above identified application will include an indication of the 0 day extension on the front page.

If a continued prosecution application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines patent term extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. (<http://pair.uspto.gov>)

Any questions regarding the patent term extension or adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703)305-1383.



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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Notice of Fee Increase on January 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after January 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on January 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2003; Final Rule, 67 Fed. Reg. 70847, 70849 (November 27, 2002).

The current fee schedule is accessible from: <http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm>.

If the issue fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due," but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) due form is to be filed on or after January 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after January 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
09/353,896

Applicant(s)

Estes

Examiner

Akers, Geoffrey

Art Unit

3624



--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/24/03.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-35, and 37-49.

3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.

4. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

(a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

6. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.

(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No. 1.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the top margin (not the back) of each sheet. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

3 ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449), Paper No(s). _____

7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

9 ☐ Other

2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____

6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

<h1>Office Action Summary</h1>	Application <u>09/353896</u>	Applicant(s) <u>Ester</u>	
	Examiner <u>Alan G</u>	Art Unit <u>3624</u>	Confirmation No.

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address -

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/24/03
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**. ☐ This action is non-final.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for the formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in this application.
- ☒ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 4-35, 37-49 is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved or ☐ disapproved by the Examiner. If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are ☐ accepted or ☒ objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d) or (f).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *Certified copies not received: _____

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

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SUPPLEMENTAL DETAILED ACTION

Response to Request for Continued Examination

1. The text of those sections of Title 35 US Code not included in here can be found in a prior Office action(see Serial No: 09/353,896). The text of those sections of Title 35 US Code not otherwise provided in a prior Office action will be included herein where appropriate.
2. This action is responsive to applicant's Request for Continued Examination(RCE)(Paper #12) filed 7/18/01 as well as applicant's Supplemental Response(Paper #24) filed 1/24/03.
3. Applicant's Response(Paper #13) filed 7/18/01 arising as a result of the Office Interview of 6/26/01(Paper #11) and compliance with examiner's request to enhance unique invention features in the claims has brought the application into a condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-2 ,4-35 and 37-49 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant invention is an apparatus for utilizing a machine-based method for analyzing an e-mail message to derive response information concerning a commercial transaction whereby an e-mail message comprises part of an electronic message sent to a customer and includes a response by the customer to the original e-mail message and based on derived information, which automatically generates commercial transaction data in a format that is usable to complete the transaction. This method has application to the offering of products or services for sale whereby

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the e-mail message furnishes an opportunity for the customer to indicate his intention to make an order.

(A)-Applicant's concept presents a method for a customer to order products or services through an entirely e-mail based system as opposed to the more traditional web-based methodology.

(B)-Applicant's concept further provides a method for managing an e-mail message dialog between the customer and a vendor through software driven interactive dialogs.

(C)-Additionally, applicant's concept permits the reception of inbound e-mail messages associated with a marketing program and the subsequent association of response information with a distinct piece of the marketing program.

The instant invention presents a method for a vendor to communicate with a customer on the purchase of products and services through the use of e-mail entirely instead of the traditional web-based technology with its attendant support complexities. The closest prior art, Gifford (US Pat. No: 6,049,785), teaches a web-based electronic order and purchasing system employing a computer network. It is clear from the description of Gifford's invention that the prior art does not address the features of "analyzing an e-mail message to derive response information concerning a commercial transactionand based on the derived information generating transaction data in a format that is usable to complete the transaction" as well as "sending an e-mail message to a customer offering a product or service for sale the e-mail message comprising locations for response by the customer indicating his intention to order the product or service" as well as "automatically managing an e-mail message message dialog with a source to resolve an

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issue with the source of the e-mail message” as well as “software guided interactive e-mail message dialogs to resolve on behalf of a vendor customer issues that occur in direct response e-mail messages that are identified as requiring a dialog” as well as “receiving inbound e-mail messages associated with a marketing program ,the inbound messages containing response information and each of the outbound e-mail messages being associated with a distinct piece of the marketing program and automatically associating the response information in each of the inbound messages with the corresponding distinct piece of the marketing program” as well as “sending outbound e-mail messages associated with a commercial transaction and storing information related to each of the outbound messages in a database, the information being useful for completing a commercial transaction, this information not being contained in the outbound message and analyzing inbound messages that result from the outbound message with respect to completing the commercial transaction and merging the response information with corresponding information in the database for use in completing the transaction” as well as “the message and the response being entirely e-mailed based” as described in the independent claims

1,5,6,8,9,10,11,15,37,44. All other claims are allowable as dependent from the independent allowable claims as addressed.

5. The prior art which does not disclose these features and which is art of record includes:

-Simon(US Pat. No: 6,061,792) discloses a system for fair exchange of information goods over a network

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-Allsop(US Pat. No: 5,970,472) discloses a method for performing electronic commerce over the Internet providing links from product manufacturers to authorized dealers

-Chou(US Pat. No: 6,055,504) discloses a method for accommodating electronic commerce in a communication network capacity market

-Speicher(US Pat. No: 5,996,006) discloses an internet-audiotext electronic advertising system with enhanced matching/notification

-Weicha(US Pat. No: 5,870,717) discloses a system for ordering items over a computer network using an electronic catalog

-Adler (US Pat. No: 6,009,409) discloses a system for scheduling delivery of advertising in a communications network

-(Non-Patent Literature)-"DeLano "Building E-Businesses with Unparalleled Speed" 8/24/00-
delanotech.com

-(Non-Patent Literature)-Damore,Kelley-"Upstarts and Start-Ups"Computer Reseller News
8/9/99 p.146

(Foreign Patent):EP 0 995 556 A2 Even-Zohar, Oshri, "A system for Dynamic Evaluation of Human Behavior" 4/26/00 (Consumer psychology)

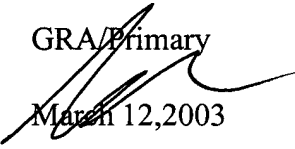
Comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, and to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submission should clearly be labeled "Comments on Statements of Reasons for Allowance"

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Conclusion

6. Comments regarding this communication should be addressed to the primary examiner, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E. who can be reached at (703)-306-5844 between the hours of 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to contact the primary examiner are unsuccessful, the primary examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

GRA/Primary

March 12, 2003

DR. GEOFFREY R. AKERS, P.E.
PRIMARY EXAMINER